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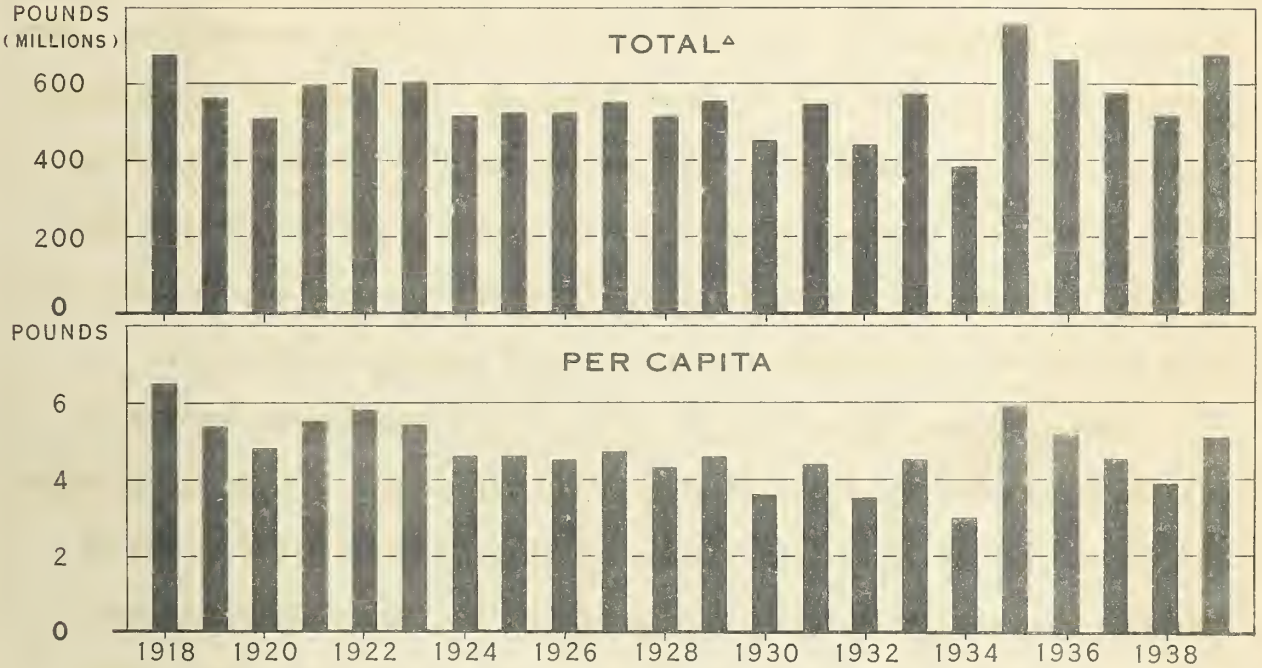
WOOL-38 FEBRUARY 12, 1940

# THE WOOL SITUATION

## WOOL, APPAREL, GREASY SHORN BASIS: CONSUMPTION BY MILLS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1918-39




[A] COMPILED FROM THE REPORTS OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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IN 1939 MILL CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL WOOL, GREASE BASIS, IN THE UNITED STATES, WAS 30 PERCENT LARGER THAN IN 1938; AND IT WAS LARGER THAN IN ANY RECENT YEAR, EXCEPT 1935.

IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A DECIDED TENDENCY FOR A DECREASE IN CONSUMPTION TO FOLLOW A YEAR OF INCREASING CONSUMPTION, SUCH AS 1939. IF THIS TENDENCY CONTINUES, MILL CONSUMPTION IN 1940 WILL BE SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN IN 1939.

# THE WOOL SITUATION

## Summary

Domestic supply conditions are relatively favorable for the marketing of the 1940 wool clip in the United States in that the carry-over of wool in this country into the new marketing season, which begins about April 1, is expected to be smaller than that of a year earlier.

Domestic mill consumption in 1940, on the other hand, may not be so large as in 1939. For several years there has been a decided tendency for a decrease in consumption to follow a year of increasing consumption. Consumption has been large for the last 18 months. In 1939 mill consumption was 30 percent greater than in 1938; except for 1935, it was larger than in any recent year. Consumer incomes in 1940 probably will be greater than in 1939, however, and the stimulating effect of this upon retail sales will be a strengthening influence on domestic mill consumption of wool.

United States imports of apparel wool for consumption totaled 98 million pounds in 1939 compared with 31 million pounds in 1938 and a 5-year 1933-37 average of 78 million pounds. Because of the small supplies of domestic wool available, imports of wool into the United States in the early part of 1940 are likely to be larger than at any time since early 1937.

Stocks of apparel wool held by United States dealers and manufacturers, including wool afloat, totaled 205 million pounds, grease basis, on December 31, 1939. An additional 14 million pounds of domestic shorn wool was estimated to be on ranches and farms and in local country warehouses in the 13 Western sheep States on December 31. Total stocks reported at the end of December 1939 were 32 million pounds smaller than a year

earlier and were the smallest December 31 stocks in the 6 years of record.

Production of wool in Australia in the 1939-40 season is expected to total about 1,090 million pounds. This preliminary estimate is 11 percent larger than the 1938-39 clip, which was officially estimated at 985 million pounds. The largest production previously reported for Australia was that of 1932-33, when 1,063 million pounds were produced. The entire Australian clip for 1939-40, exclusive of the quantity needed for Australian consumption, was purchased by the British Government. Small shipments were made in December to France and to the United States.

Sales of domestic wool at Boston were small in January, and prices declined in the latter part of the month. Chief interest in the wool market was in foreign wools, which are now arriving in quantity. Prices of domestic wools in recent months have been higher than prices (duty paid) of similar wools from South Africa and South America.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DOMESTIC SITUATION

### Domestic wool prices decline in January

Sales of domestic wool at Boston were small in January, and prices declined in the latter part of the month. Chief interest in the wool market was in foreign wools, which are now arriving in quantity. Prices of domestic wools in recent months have been higher than prices (duty paid) of similar wools from South Africa and South America.

Good French combing length fine territory wools in original bags sold at 95-97 cents a pound, scoured basis, in the week ended February 3. This was 5 cents a pound lower than prices reported a month earlier. Prices of territory 3/8 blood graded combing wools averaged 81 cents a pound, scoured basis, the last week of January compared with 84 cents a pound a month earlier. Average prices of graded combing territory wools at the end of January were about 15 percent below the high point reached at the end of September but were about 35 percent higher than before the sharp rise in September.

Sales of fleece wool were very small in January, and prices on many grades were largely nominal. Country packed mixed grade lots of 3/8 and 1/4 blood bright fleece wools were quoted at 41-42 cents a pound, grease basis, in the week ended February 3 compared with 43-45 cents a

month earlier. Prices of graded fine combing (delaine) averaged 39.5 cents a pound, grease basis, for the week ended February 3 and 41.5 cents a month earlier.

The United States average price of wool received by farmers was 28.1 cents a pound on January 15. It was 27.5 cents a pound on December 15 and 20 cents on January 15, 1939.

Demand for foreign wools at Boston moderate, prices firm, in January

Foreign wools continued to sell in moderate quantities at Boston in January. Prices of fine grades of foreign wool were firm or slightly higher during the month. South African 10-12 months wools of 64-70s grade sold at 90-96 cents a pound, scoured basis, including duty. Sales of South American merino and fine crossbred wools were made to United States mills in January.

Canadian buyers purchased South American crossbred wools at Boston in January. Difficulty in obtaining New Zealand wools needed for military purposes led to the temporary suspension of the Canadian duty on certain wools, and Canadian buyers entered the Boston market to fill immediate needs.

Additional allotment of Australian wool available for United States importers

An additional 50,000 bales (15,000,000 pounds) of Australian wool are now available to United States importers, according to information from the British Wool Control, cabled from the American Embassy at London on January 22. The original allotment of 75,000 bales (22,500,000 pounds) was announced in December. Details concerning arrangements for the release of Australian wool to the United States were reported in The Wool Situation for January.

Several thousand bales of Australian wool of the original allotment were landed in Boston and in San Francisco late in January, according to commercial reports.

Wool imports increase in December

United States imports for consumption of apparel wool totaled 15.9 million pounds in December compared with 11.9 million pounds in November and 4.4 million pounds in December 1938. The December imports were the largest for any month since May 1937. Imports of apparel wool for the entire year 1939 totaled 98 million pounds compared with 31 million pounds in 1938 and a 5-year 1933-37 average of 78 million pounds.

Imports for consumption of carpet wool totaled 145 million pounds in 1939. The 1939 imports were twice as large as those of 1938 and were slightly larger than the average of 134 million pounds for the 5 years 1933-37.

Stocks of wool relatively small

Stocks of apparel wool held by United States dealers, manufacturers and topmakers, including wool afloat to the United States, totaled 205 million pounds, grease basis, on December 30, 1939, according to reports to the Bureau of the Census. In addition, the Department of Agriculture estimates that there were 14 million pounds of domestic shorn wool on ranches and farms and in local country warehouses in the 13 Western sheep States on December 31. Total stocks of both foreign and domestic wool reported at the end of December 1939 were 32 million pounds smaller than a year earlier and were the smallest December 31 stocks in the 6 years of record.

Manufacturers held a much larger percentage of reported stocks at the end of December 1939 than at the corresponding date of the 5 years previous. The stocks reported by dealers and manufacturers on December 30, 1939, with comparisons, are shown on a scoured equivalent basis in the accompanying table. Stocks reported by quarters, 1935 to date, are shown on a grease basis on page 14.

Stocks of raw wool, top and noil, held by dealers, manufacturers and topmakers in the United States, scoured basis, December 30, 1939, with comparisons

| Item | 1938 | 1939 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec. 31 1/ | Sept. 30 1/ | Dec. 30 |
| | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds |
| Apparel wool, total | 115,655 | 118,514 | 111,289 |
| Dealers | 65,115 | 41,673 | 45,000 |
| Domestic | 51,928 | 33,954 | 25,540 |
| Foreign on hand | 10,497 | 6,456 | 13,480 |
| Foreign afloat | 2,690 | 1,263 | 5,980 |
| Manufacturers and topmakers | 50,540 | 76,841 | 66,289 |
| Domestic | 37,654 | 55,507 | 37,131 |
| Foreign on hand | 10,201 | 17,547 | 19,773 |
| Foreign afloat | 2,685 | 3,787 | 9,385 |
| Carpet wool, total | 29,966 | 37,411 | 37,529 |
| Dealers | 3,641 | 1,271 | 2,725 |
| Manufacturers | 26,325 | 36,140 | 34,804 |
| Tops | 23,248 | 19,894 | 22,843 |
| Noils | 9,337 | 8,896 | 11,340 |

Compiled from Bureau of the Census Quarterly Wool Stock Report, December 30, 1939.

1/ Revised.

Mill consumption declines in December but remains above average

The weekly rate of mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States was 5,595,000 pounds, scoured basis, in December. This was 15 percent lower than the November rate of consumption and was 6 percent lower than that of December 1938. But the consumption in December was 30 percent larger than the average December consumption in the 10 years 1928-37. Consumption in December was lower than a year earlier for the first time since June 1938.

Mill consumption of apparel wool on a grease basis in 1939 was equivalent to 551 million pounds of shorn wool and 79 million pounds of pulled wool. Consumption on a grease basis in 1938 was equivalent to 406 million pounds of shorn wool and 68 million pounds of pulled wool. Consumption in 1939 was about 24 percent larger than the average yearly consumption in the 10 years 1928-37.

The decline in mill consumption in December was partly seasonal. Large orders for men's wear fabrics for the 1940 spring season were placed in September and October. Mill sales in November were much smaller than the quantity of cloth invoiced to buyers, and unfilled orders were sharply reduced.

## DOMESTIC OUTLOOK

Domestic supply conditions are relatively favorable for the marketing of the 1940 wool clip in the United States. The carry-over of wool in this country into the new marketing season which begins about April 1 is expected to be smaller than a year earlier.

Stocks of domestic wool reported on December 31, 1939 were about 70 million pounds grease basis smaller than a year earlier and were by far the smallest December 31 stocks in recent years. Stocks of foreign apparel wool in the United States on December 31 were somewhat larger than the average for that date in the last 5 years. But total stocks of domestic and foreign apparel wool on December 31, exclusive of wool afloat, were the smallest reported for any date in the last 5 years with the exception of April 1 stocks in 1936 and 1939.

Imports will be large in early months of 1940

Imports of wool into the United States in the early part of 1940 are likely to be larger than at any time since 1937. (General imports of apparel wool in the first 3 months of 1937 totaled 110 million pounds.)

United States purchases of South African wool through January 15 were estimated by commercial sources to total about 45 million pounds. About 21 million pounds had been shipped by the end of December. Allotments of Australian wool by the British Government to the United States now total about 37.5 million pounds. It is not known how much of the Australian allotment has been purchased to date. United States buyers were active in the South American markets in late December and in January.

Mill consumption prospects for 1940

Prospects for mill consumption in 1940 are somewhat uncertain. Consumer incomes in 1940 probably will be greater than in 1939, and this may stimulate retail sales of wool goods. But mill consumption of wool has been large for the last 18 months, and in recent years there has been a decided tendency for a decrease in consumption to follow a year of increasing consumption such as 1939. If this tendency continues, mill consumption in 1940 will be somewhat smaller than in 1939.

## FOREIGN SITUATION

Australian wool production for 1939-40 expected to set new record

Production of wool in Australia in the current season, which ends June 30, 1940, is expected to reach a record total of 1090 million pounds. This is an increase of 11 percent over the 1938-39 production, which was officially estimated at 985 million pounds. The largest production previously reported for Australia was that of 1932-33, which totaled 1063 million pounds. Production averaged 998 million pounds in the 5 seasons 1933-34 to 1937-38. These estimates include the quantity of wool exported on skins as well as production of shorn and pulled wool.

Wool production in Australia 1932-33 to date

| Season July-June | Shorn wool | Skin wool | Wool exported on skins | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds |
| 1932-33 | 943.0 | 66.2 | 53.4 | 1,062.6 |
| 1933-34 | 870.1 | 72.0 | 53.8 | 995.9 |
| 1934-35 | 908.1 | 54.5 | 52.8 | 1,015.4 |
| 1935-36 | 867.3 | 49.6 | 54.2 | 971.1 |
| 1936-37 | 877.5 | 50.0 | 55.3 | 982.8 |
| 1937-38 | 914.8 | 48.2 | 60.4 | 1,023.4 |
| 1938-39 1/ | 2/ | 2/ | 2/ | 985.0 |
| 1939-40 1/ | 2/ | 2/ | 2/ | 1,090.0 |

Australian Bureau of Census and Statistics, except 1939-40, which is based on the December estimate of the Australian Council of Wool Selling Brokers.

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Not yet available.

Small shipments of Australian wool for non-British countries in December

The entire clip of Australian wool for the 1939-40 season, exclusive of the quantity needed for domestic consumption, was purchased by the British Government. Resale of wool to allied and neutral countries is under the direction of the Central Wool Committee of Australia. Statistics of sales and shipments have not been published during the current season.

The Central Wool Committee reports, however, that about one-half of the clip had been appraised by the end of December, and about 816,000 bales (245,000,000 pounds) had been loaded for shipment. Exports were almost entirely to the United Kingdom, but small shipments were made in December to France and to the United States.

South Africa sales and shipments

Wool prices continued to advance in the South African markets in January. Representatives of the British Government purchased additional quantities of wool under the British-South African price agreement. France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, and the United States were active buyers in January.

Receipts of wool at South African selling centers in the first 6 months (July-December) of the 1939-40 season were about 6 percent smaller than in the same months last season. Disposals from July through December, however, were 20 percent smaller than a year earlier. Unsold stocks at selling centers on December 31 were much larger than a year earlier and were 30 percent larger than average December 31 stocks in the 5 years 1933-37.

Exports of wool from the Union of South Africa in the first half (July-December) of the 1939-40 season totaled 57.7 million pounds, compared with 111.5 million pounds exported in the same months last season. Stocks sold and awaiting shipment were large in December, and it is likely that the decline in exports compared with last season is due, in part, to difficulty in obtaining shipping space.

Largest shipments from South Africa in the current season have been to the United States. Exports to the United States from July through December totaled about 21 million pounds compared with 0.4 million pounds in the same months last season. Exports to the United States averaged only 2 million pounds annually from 1933 through 1937.

Prices of 64-70s wools in South African markets in the 1939-40 season, with comparisons 1/

| Item | 1937 high | 1938-39 | | 1939-40 2/ | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr. | Dec. | Jan. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. |
| 64-70s | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| Super combing | 68.0 | 40.1 | 38.9 | 50.2 | 47.5 | 47.7 | 52.4 |
| Combing | 65.9 | 37.6 | 36.8 | 46.9 | 44.1 | 45.0 | 49.4 |
| Short combing | 62.9 | 35.6 | 33.9 | 38.1 | 34.8 | 39.4 | 42.9 |
| Super shorts | 56.8 | 32.6 | 31.6 | 33.7 | 31.3 | 34.9 | 38.8 |

Compiled from South Africa Crops and Markets and cabled reports from the American Legation in South Africa.
1/ Quotations are in cents per pound, clean basis.
2/ Preliminary.

Wool exports from the Union of South Africa in the first 6 months (July-December) of the 1939-40 exporting season, with comparisons

| Country to which exported | 1938 | 1939 1/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July-Dec. | July-Nov. | Dec. | July-Dec. |
| | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. |
| United States | 0.4 | 14.4 | 6.8 | 21.2 |
| United Kingdom | 17.5 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 5.9 |
| France | 25.7 | 3.5 | 6.2 | 9.7 |
| Germany | 44.2 | 1.0 | -- | 1.0 |
| Belgium | 9.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 3.0 |
| Italy | 9.4 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 3.4 |
| Japan | -- | 2.0 | 4.5 | 6.5 |
| Other | 5.1 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 7.0 |
| Total | 111.5 | 32.9 | 24.8 | 57.7 |

Compiled from South Africa Crops and Markets and cabled reports from London and Pretoria.
1/ Preliminary.

South American Markets

The South American wool markets were fairly active in the latter part of December and in January. Largest sales were made to the United States and France. Demand was particularly good for medium and coarse crossbred wools. Prices advanced on most grades of wool in January.

Exports from Argentina and Uruguay in the first 3 months (October-December) of the current season were about 27 percent smaller than in the same months last year. But the October-December exports were about equal to the average exports for those months in the 5 years 1933-37. Exports from Argentina so far this season have been above the 5-year average, but exports from Uruguay have been below average. Exports to the United States from October through December 1939 were more than twice as large as a year earlier.

Wool exports from Argentina and Uruguay in the first 3 months (October-December) of the 1939-40 season, with comparisons

| Country to which exported | Argentina | | Uruguay | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1938 | 1939 1/ | 1938 | 1939 1/ | 1938 | 1939 1/ |
| | Mil.lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. |
| United States 2/ | 24.4 | 45.2 | 1.2 | 11.1 | 25.6 | 56.3 |
| United Kingdom | 32.0 | .2 | 3.7 | --- | 35.7 | .2 |
| France | 17.9 | 8.4 | 1.7 | --- | 19.6 | 8.4 |
| Germany | 4.6 | --- | 12.6 | --- | 17.2 | --- |
| Belgium | 4.6 | 1.2 | 1.6 | .1 | 6.2 | 1.3 |
| Italy | 2.2 | 2.5 | 4.9 | 2.9 | 7.1 | 5.4 |
| Sweden | --- | --- | .7 | 2.0 | .7 | 2.0 |
| Netherlands | 1.2 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 3.3 |
| Japan | --- | 4.7 | --- | --- | --- | 4.7 |
| Other | 7.5 | 7.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 10.0 | 9.3 |
| Total | 94.4 | 71.5 | 30.5 | 19.4 | 124.9 | 90.9 |

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by the American Agricultural Attache at Buenos Aires.
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes small shipments to Canada.

United Kingdom Wool Control announces sharp increase in prices to English buyers

New issue prices to British manufacturers for wool, tops and noils for the rationing period which begins March 1 will be mostly 35 to 45 percent higher than current prices, according to a recent announcement of the British Wool Control. While these prices do not apply to wool and semi-manufactures to be exported without further processing, they do represent prices to be paid by British manufacturers for raw materials to be used in the manufacture of goods for export.

The Wool Control states that there will be no wools of 44s to 50s grades available for civilian use. The quantity of 56s available in the new rationing period, March 1 to June 30, will be small.

The new issue prices for certain grades of wool, tops and noils are shown in the accompanying table. Prices prevailing at the end of August before the outbreak of war, Government purchase prices, and previous issue prices are shown for comparison.

Manufactures for export to have priority in wool supplies

To encourage exports of wool cloth by British manufacturers the Wool Control announced in January that for every 100 pounds of wool exported in the form of cloth during any rationing period the manufacturer will be entitled to an allocation of 125 pounds of wool. Such allocations will hold precedence over supplies for civilian use in the United Kingdom.

The Wool Control does not guarantee that issue prices will remain unchanged during the rationing period March 1 to June 30, 1940. But such prices are guaranteed on the allocation of 125 pounds for each 100 pounds exported in the form of cloth up to April 30, 1940.

United Kingdom: Prices per pound of wool and semi-manufactures specified periods 1939-40

| Item and description | Market price Aug. 31 1/ | Control period | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Maximum price schedule Sept.5 | Government purchase price Oct.23 2/ | Issue price (home trade) effective Oct.23 | Issue price (home trade) effective Mar. 1 1940 |
| Colonial wool, combing type clean scoured basis | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| 64s warp | 39.3 | 36.0 | 39.3 | 42.1 | 56.2 |
| 56s super | 31.7 | 28.8 | 31.3 | 33.9 | 49.1 |
| Colonial wool, clothing type | | | | | |
| Australian scoured fleeces,70s | 36.6 | 38.1 | 39.7 | 42.5 | 58.6 |
| Cape scoured, average 64-70s | 31.3 | 29.2 | 30.5 | 32.6 | |
| Tops, Colonial, oil combed | | | | | |
| 64s warp | 47.3 | 44.9 | 48.4 | 52.4 | 70.2 |
| 56s super | 38.4 | 36.4 | 39.3 | 42.5 | 60.7 |
| Noils | | | | | |
| White, Noble-Australian 64s | 28.6 | 28.4 | 29.7 | 31.8 | 42.1 |
| " carded 56s average | 22.8 | 22.9 | 24.2 | 25.6 | 34.7 |

Compiled from official reports and from the Yorkshire Observer.
Prices converted from pence to cents as follows: Market prices August 31, maximum price schedule September 5 and Government purchase price October 23 converted at noon buying rate, New York cable for dates specified; issue prices, effective October 23 and March 1 converted at average rate of exchange for month of January 1940.

1/ Prices for wool are those quoted for the last London Auction Sales, July 26. These prices are approximately equal to prices ruling just prior to outbreak of war.
2/ Delivered Bradford, or any other consuming area. All stocks of wool and semi-manufactures were taken over by the British Government from private holders at the above price schedule.

Prices of wool and textile raw materials in the United States, specified periods, 1938-40

| Item | Average | | High 1939 1/ | 1939 | | | 1940 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1938 | 1939 | | Jan. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. |
| | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| Boston market | | | | | | | |
| Territory, scoured basis | | | | | | | |
| 64s, 70s, 80s(fine)staple .. | 70.4 | 82.7 | 109.5 | 72.2 | 105.4 | 105.8 | 104.7 |
| 56s (3/8 blood) combing .... | 58.9 | 69.3 | 94.1 | 60.8 | 87.9 | 85.9 | 82.8 |
| 46s (Low 1/4 blood) ..... | 52.4 | 62.6 | 87.5 | 54.0 | 81.7 | 79.0 | 76.1 |
| Bright fleece, greasy | | | | | | | |
| 64s,70s,80s(fine) delaine .. | 29.0 | 32.9 | 43.0 | 29.5 | 40.6 | 41.2 | 40.7 |
| 56s (3/8 blood) combing .... | 29.5 | 36.2 | 48.8 | 31.5 | 47.0 | 46.0 | 44.5 |
| 46s (Low 1/4 blood) ..... | 28.3 | 35.5 | 49.0 | 30.5 | 46.6 | 45.5 | 44.0 |
| Price received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month | 19.4 | 22.9 | 28.7 | 20.0 | 27.6 | 27.5 | 28.1 |
| Textile fibers | | | | | | | |
| Wool, Terr. fine staple 2/ .. | 70.4 | 82.7 | 109.5 | 72.2 | 105.4 | 105.8 | 104.7 |
| Cotton 7/8 Middling 3/ ..... | 8.58 | 9.04 | 10.39 | 8.54 | 9.22 | 10.39 | 10.62 |
| Silk, Japanese 4/ ..... | 170.6 | 272.6 | 392.1 | 190.0 | 339.4 | 392.1 | 368.3 |
| Rayon yarn, 150 denier 5/ .. | 52.2 | 51.5 | 53.0 | 51.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 |

Compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service, except as otherwise specified.

Yearly averages are averages of monthly prices except United States farm price, 1938, which is a weighted average.

1/ Monthly average.
2/ Scoured basis, Boston market.
3/ Average at 10 markets.
4/ White 13-15 denier, at New York, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
5/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

United States: Wool imports, consumption and machinery activity, specified periods, 1937-39

| Item | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1938 | | 1939 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Nov. | Dec. | Nov. | Dec. |
| Imports for consumption actual weight: 1/ | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds |
| Apparel | 150,160 | 30,811 | 98,194 | 4,140 | 4,371 | 11,874 | 15,891 |
| Finer than 40s | 126,601 | 18,443 | 74,612 | 2,714 | 2,751 | 9,977 | 14,699 |
| Not finer than 40s | 23,559 | 12,369 | 23,582 | 1,426 | 1,620 | 1,897 | 1,192 |
| Carpet, including camel's hair | 172,091 | 71,908 | 144,874 | 11,963 | 13,649 | 10,602 | 9,839 |
| Consumption, scoured basis: 2/ | | | | | | | |
| Weekly average- | | | | | | | |
| Apparel | 5,273 | 4,143 | 5,636 | 5,878 | 5,938 | 6,609 | 5,595 |
| Carpet | 2,050 | 1,225 | 1,989 | 1,918 | 1,900 | 2,310 | 1,916 |
| Aggregate- | | | | | | | |
| Apparel | 274,217 | 219,565 | 293,083 | 23,512 | 29,688 | 26,436 | 22,378 |
| Carpet | 106,620 | 64,945 | 103,421 | 7,716 | 9,501 | 9,238 | 7,665 |
| | Weekly average in hours | | | | | | |
| Machinery activity: 2/ | | | | | | | |
| Hours operated per machine in place 3/ | | | | | | | |
| Worsted combs | 46.1 | 39.8 | 51.8 | 56.5 | 57.6 | 60.7 | 51.1 |
| Worsted spindles | 32.9 | 26.9 | 39.5 | 40.1 | 45.4 | 49.6 | 40.5 |
| Woolen spindles | 43.1 | 30.6 | 39.7 | 39.0 | 39.9 | 44.9 | 41.8 |
| Woolen and worsted looms- | | | | | | | |
| Broad | 39.0 | 28.1 | 40.6 | 35.5 | 41.3 | 47.8 | 47.8 |
| Narrow | 20.4 | 10.5 | 13.2 | 12.8 | 12.3 | 19.7 | 15.4 |
| Carpet and rug looms- | | | | | | | |
| Broad | 28.6 | 23.4 | 37.4 | 32.4 | 32.5 | 43.8 | 41.7 |
| Narrow | | 15.9 | 22.9 | 19.2 | 20.8 | 24.4 | 21.8 |

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption and machinery activity from the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool added together.
2/ Figures for November and December 1939 and November 1938 based on 4 weeks, December 1938 on 5 weeks; 1938 totals based on 53 weeks. No adjustment made for holidays.
3/ "Weekly average hours operated per machine or spindle in place" will take the place of "Percentage of maximum single shift capacity" previously reported. The percentage of single shift capacity (40 hours) may be obtained by dividing the above figures by 40.

Wool: Stocks held by dealers and manufacturers, and stocks on farms and ranches in 13 Western sheep States, grease basis, United States, 1935-39

| Date | Apparel wool | | | | | On farms and ranches 3/ | Carpet wool, all foreign 1/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Domestic | | Foreign 1/ | | Total reported | | |
| | Dealers | Manufacturers 2/ | Dealers | Manufacturers 2/ | | | |
| | 1,000 lb. | 1,000 lb. | 1,000 lb. | 1,000 lb. | 1,000 lb. | 1,000 lb. | 1,000 lb. |
| 1935 | | | | | | | |
| Mar. 30 4/ | 170,887 | 90,398 | 13,597 | 14,508 | 289,390 | | 41,907 |
| June 29 | 183,818 | 112,758 | 11,783 | 11,116 | 319,475 | | 43,004 |
| Sept. 28 | 161,945 | 155,708 | 11,401 | 15,755 | 344,809 | | 51,795 |
| Dec. 31 | 76,861 | 114,239 | 23,067 | 20,366 | 234,533 | 4,500 | 51,772 |
| 1936 | | | | | | | |
| Mar. 28 | 41,836 | 80,581 | 27,852 | 39,236 | 189,505 | 350 | 55,049 |
| June 27 | 136,325 | 105,108 | 20,663 | 33,050 | 295,146 | | 49,060 |
| Sept. 26 | 128,845 | 93,696 | 13,764 | 25,293 | 261,598 | | 47,462 |
| Dec. 31 | 67,353 | 102,208 | 33,509 | 43,811 | 246,881 | 1,800 | 53,959 |
| 1937 | | | | | | | |
| Mar. 27 | 34,873 | 81,488 | 27,527 | 68,862 | 212,750 | 330 | 53,923 |
| June 26 | 131,967 | 87,989 | 16,038 | 51,393 | 287,387 | | 51,172 |
| Sept. 25 | 139,085 | 85,303 | 16,925 | 34,865 | 276,178 | | 59,846 |
| Dec. 31 | 134,623 | 66,037 | 14,859 | 23,968 | 239,487 | 31,600 | 63,471 |
| 1938 | | | | | | | |
| Mar. 26 | 117,226 | 63,396 | 12,993 | 23,157 | 216,772 | 22,500 | 49,640 |
| June 25 | 169,043 | 95,397 | 11,940 | 21,342 | 297,722 | | 43,927 |
| Sept. 24 | 181,847 | 104,559 | 14,316 | 20,435 | 321,157 | | 37,969 |
| Dec. 31 | 116,635 | 82,225 | 19,893 | 19,650 | 238,403 | 13,340 | 43,137 |
| 1939 | | | | | | | |
| Apr. 1 | 68,554 | 64,345 | 19,965 | 28,075 | 180,939 | 6,290 | 48,527 |
| July 1 | 107,910 | 103,857 | 15,114 | 28,886 | 255,767 | | 46,860 |
| Sept. 30 | 75,245 | 125,084 | 11,556 | 32,977 | 244,862 | | 53,705 |
| Dec. 31 5/ | 47,252 | 81,223 | 29,508 | 47,437 | 205,420 | 14,384 | 53,965 |

Compiled from Bureau of the Census Quarterly Wool Stocks Reports. These statistics are believed to include over 95 percent of the total stocks held by and afloat to all dealers, manufacturers and topmakers in the United States.

1/ Includes foreign wool afloat to the United States.
2/ Includes topmakers' stocks.
3/ Estimated by the Department of Agriculture. No estimates available for dates where no figures are shown.
4/ Grease basis figures for March 30, 1935, calculated from statistics of condition in which reported. Stock figures were not reported on a grease basis by the Bureau of the Census until June 1935.
5/ Preliminary.

Sta. 941



Mill consumption of apparel wool, greasy shorn basis, total and per capita, United States 1918-39

| Year | Total | Per capita | Year | Total | Per capita |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million pounds | Pounds | | Million pounds | Pounds |
| 1918 | 676.0 | 6.5 | 1929 | 554.7 | 4.6 |
| 1919 | 563.7 | 5.4 | 1930 | 447.9 | 3.6 |
| 1920 | 510.9 | 4.8 | 1931 | 545.2 | 4.4 |
| 1921 | 597.4 | 5.5 | 1932 | 439.8 | 3.5 |
| 1922 | 640.4 | 5.8 | 1933 | 572.2 | 4.5 |
| 1923 | 603.1 | 5.4 | 1934 | 381.4 | 3.0 |
| 1924 | 518.0 | 4.6 | 1935 | 748.4 | 5.9 |
| 1925 | 525.2 | 4.6 | 1936 | 666.4 | 6.2 |
| 1926 | 524.1 | 4.5 | 1937 | 579.5 | 4.5 |
| 1927 | 551.1 | 4.7 | 1938 1/ | 513.9 | 3.9 |
| 1928 | 511.9 | 4.3 | 1939 1/ | 673.9 | 5.1 |

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Preliminary.